

COVID-19 – Latin American and the Caribbean Response

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2021

JUNE 29, 2021

KEY FIGURES*

37.2

MILLION

Total Number of
Confirmed COVID-19
Cases in Region

1.3

MILLION

Total Number of
Deaths Related to
COVID-19 in Region

229

MILLION

Total Number of
Vaccine Doses
Administered in
Region

**Source: Johns Hopkins University and Our World in Data, June 29, 2021; Figures are subject to change due to periodic adjustment and updating.*

KEY MESSAGES

- The number of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)¹ has surged in recent weeks, with Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia reporting the second, third, and fourth highest number of new cases globally from June 2 to 9, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Moreover, although the region represents only 8 percent of the global population, LAC accounts for 30 percent of all COVID-19 deaths globally. Meanwhile, many LAC countries lack access to sufficient doses of COVID-19 vaccines, contributing to low vaccination rates that heighten the risk of future surges.
- In addition to the direct health effects of COVID-19, vulnerable populations in LAC have been particularly affected by the secondary impacts of the pandemic, including reduced mobility, increased gender-based violence (GBV), and decreased livelihood options. Lack of access to income-generating opportunities has resulted in deteriorating food security and exacerbated protection needs, particularly in Central America.
- The U.S. Government (USG) plans to donate 580 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to support global COVID-19 vaccination efforts. As of June 21, the USG had announced the allocation of the first 80 million doses, approximately 20 million of which will be distributed to LAC nations. The U.S. also plans to donate additional doses to at least seven LAC nations.
- Across the region, USAID partners are bolstering livelihoods, distributing critical hygiene commodities and emergency food assistance, providing technical assistance (TA) and essential equipment to health care centers, supporting national governments to develop vaccination strategies, and training frontline medical personnel.

TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN LAC²

USAID/BHA ³	\$69,499,089
USAID/GH ⁴	\$113,153,596
USAID/LAC ⁵	\$34,950,000
	\$217,602,685

¹ The LAC region includes Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

² Year of funding indicates the date of obligation—a legal commitment of funds in an Agency's accounting system with a corresponding procurement action—not appropriation, of funds. Funding represents amounts obligated as of June 1, 2021.

³ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

⁴ USAID's Bureau for Global Health (USAID/GH)

⁵ USAID's Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (USAID/LAC)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The number of new COVID-19 cases in LAC has steadily increased since May, with total cases increasing by 14 percent—from 29.8 million to 34 million—from early May to early June. Although LAC accounts for only 8 percent of the global population, the region represents nearly 30 percent of global deaths from COVID-19, with nearly 1.3 million deaths to date. Despite high caseloads, many LAC countries have experienced difficulties accessing COVID-19 vaccines, with nearly 59.6 million people—only 3 percent of the region’s population—fully vaccinated as of early June, according to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).
- In recent weeks, the number of new weekly COVID-19 cases in Guatemala and Honduras have been among the highest recorded to date. Meanwhile, vaccination rates in the two countries are some of the lowest in the LAC region, with only 2.4 and 2.6 percent of Guatemala’s and Honduras’ populations, respectively, receiving at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, according to WHO. In addition to direct health impacts, the ongoing prevalence of COVID-19 continues to limit mobility and contribute to below-normal labor demand and associated food insecurity and protection concerns in Central America. Additionally, the continued disruption of women’s health services due to COVID-19 could reverse more than 20 years of progress in reducing maternal mortality and increasing access to family planning in LAC, PAHO reports.
- South America remains one of the most affected regions from COVID-19, with Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia recording the second, third, and fourth highest daily rates of new infections globally as of June 4. Peru has the highest per capita COVID-19 death rate in the world, with 560 deaths per 100,000 people, according to WHO. Health actors report that intensive care units in Peru are near capacity and oxygen supplies are insufficient. Meanwhile, May 2021 was the deadliest month to date in Colombia and Guyana. In Venezuela, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the country’s ongoing humanitarian crisis, resulting in a failing health system as the population continues to face widespread food insecurity, shortages of safe drinking water, and limited access to health care services.
- Haiti is currently experiencing a third wave of COVID-19 infections characterized by a high rate of hospital admissions, overwhelming the capacity of the health care system. WHO reported more than 70 deaths from COVID-19 in Haiti in May, compared to the 25 total deaths recorded from October 2020 to April 2021 and representing approximately 20 percent of total COVID-19 deaths recorded to date. Health care actors have identified two COVID-19 variants—Alpha and Gamma—associated with higher rates of transmission in Haiti, coinciding with the recent increase in the number of reported cases. Additionally, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reports that the number of children experiencing severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—in Haiti has more than doubled in the past year, due in part to the economic impact caused by COVID-19 restrictions, as well as rising crime and limited resources for food.
- Across the region, the pandemic threatens the safety and wellbeing of already vulnerable communities, particularly women and girls. Prior to the pandemic, Central American countries were consistently ranked among the highest in global rates of GBV in its most extreme form, femicide. GBV has spiked in the wake of COVID-19, particularly domestic violence, most likely due to forced coexistence in confined living spaces and lack of access to usual support systems. According to UN Women, women in the region continue to be at the forefront of the response—including as health professionals, first responders, care workers, and community volunteers—and bear the high physical and emotional costs and increased demands on their time given roles as caregivers for sick family members, as well as for children and older people. Additionally, food insecurity and lack of access to basic goods and services have particularly affected women, who continue to experience higher rates of underemployment, are over-represented in the informal sector, and work in economic sectors most affected by the pandemic and lock down measures.

USAID RESPONSE

FACILITATE ACCESS TO SAFE AND EFFECTIVE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

- As of June 21, the USG had announced which countries would receive the first 80 million COVID-19 vaccine doses donated by the United States. Of these 80 million doses, the USG has allocated 20 million for South and Central America, including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and other Caribbean Community countries. The U.S. also plans to donate additional doses to Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, and Panama, as well as other Caribbean

countries. In addition, on June 10, the USG announced that the U.S. will purchase and donate 500 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to Gavi's Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) countries and the Africa Union. At least 10 countries in LAC are eligible for the AMC program.

- As of June 2021, USAID has provided \$13.5 million to support governments in developing national vaccination strategies, establishing supply chain needs, and training health professionals to administer COVID-19 vaccines, including in Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Peru, and the Eastern and Southern Caribbean region, which includes ten islands and countries. In early 2021, USAID partner Palladium provided TA to Guatemala's National Coordination Committee for COVID-19 Vaccination to develop a national vaccination plan, as well as a budget for communication campaigns and cold chain management. In Peru, local partner PRISMA is also coordinating vaccine efforts at both the national and regional levels, including reviewing vaccination plans for the Amazon and Andean regions and for Afro-Peruvian populations, as well as producing communication materials in indigenous languages.

REDUCE MORBIDITY, MITIGATE TRANSMISSION, AND STRENGTHEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

- The COVID-19 pandemic, as well as back-to-back hurricanes in November 2020, placed significant pressure on health care systems and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. In response, USAID partners are providing primary health care services, training health care workers, and mitigating transmission by distributing hygiene items and promoting safe hygiene practices. In Honduras and El Salvador, USAID is supporting PAHO to repair damaged facilities, provide equipment and supplies, conduct training for health care workers, and disseminate disease prevention information, aiming to reach an estimated 115,000 people.
- USAID supports health, mental health, protection, and WASH activities in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. To mitigate COVID-19 transmission, USAID partners are conducting risk communication and community engagement and hygiene promotion activities, distributing WASH kits, installing handwashing stations in critical areas, supporting mobile medical clinics, and providing psychosocial support to frontline health care workers and households affected by COVID-19.
- In Bolivia, USAID partner ProSalud has assessed the capacity of 105 hospitals and trained more than 300 health care professionals on the management of severe COVID-19 cases and infection prevention and control (IPC) measures. ProSalud is also assisting hospitals in Cochabamba, La Paz, and Santa Cruz cities, among other areas, with oxygen therapy by procuring or donating oxygen equipment, installing oxygen outlet points in urban hospitals, providing high-flow concentrators in rural areas, and conducting trainings on the use and maintenance of oxygen systems.
- USAID partner Fundación Esquel has expanded oxygen therapy capacity in 12 Ecuador hospitals and health care centers by implementing triage centers equipped with oxygen concentrators and cylinders to treat mild COVID-19 patients, allowing hospital wards to focus on those with severe symptoms. Additionally, Fundación Esquel developed a call center and home care system to follow up with mild patients and worked to improve links between oxygen suppliers and institutional consumers in nine provinces.
- USAID partner Doctors of the World expanded IPC capacity at eight health care facilities in Haiti in 2020, training more than 200 health care workers on triage and early detection. The organization also provided health supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), and pharmaceuticals to support health care centers in Haiti's Nippes and West departments, and reached more than 150,000 people through COVID-19 prevention awareness campaigns and with PPE.
- With USAID support, Socios en Salud is providing critical health services in Peru's Amazon region and northern coastal areas. Activities to date include providing TA to improve hospital morgue management and safety protocols; supporting epidemiological surveillance, including contact tracing and testing; expanding oxygen capacity at seven hospitals and 12 health facilities, adding nearly 340 oxygen outlet points, distributing 100 oxygen concentrators, and implementing a 45-bed oxygen therapy center; conducting 450,000 consultations through a medical call center and mental health support system; and working with community health workers to reach more than 18,000 vulnerable households and implement home deliveries of medicine.
- With more than \$17.5 million in FY 2020 funds, USAID supports implementing partners to provide WASH supplies and support COVID-19 case management and disease surveillance in Venezuela.

ADDRESS ACUTE NEEDS DRIVEN BY COVID-19

- In El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, USAID-supported programs aim to reach one million people with emergency food assistance, economic recovery assistance to help rebuild livelihoods, and aid for smallholder farmers to improve food security and build resilience to future shocks. USAID also partners with the UN World Food Program (WFP) in Colombia

and Ecuador to support food-insecure households through the provision of emergency cash and food vouchers and to implement shock-responsive social protection activities, reaching nearly 200,000 people to date.

- In response to disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on most vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, USAID is supporting partners to provide holistic protection services across the region, including in Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru. This includes deploying social workers and psychologists to address widespread distress and grief; bolstering ongoing efforts by local women's organizations to assist survivors of GBV; amplifying reproductive health services, especially recognizing the increasing number of adolescent pregnancies; and establishing spaces protected from gang activity where children and their caregivers learn coping mechanisms and receive professional support.

BOLSTER ECONOMIES AND OTHER CRITICAL SYSTEMS

- In Peru, USAID supports CEDRO to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on vulnerable populations in Amazonian regions, particularly indigenous communities, providing business development assistance to micro-, small-, and medium-sized entrepreneurs. To date, CEDRO has provided financial education sessions to 5,370 people, trained 460 other individuals in business development and management practices, and supported the distribution of 330 microcredit loans by its financial partners. Additionally, the non-governmental organization has reached nearly 461,400 people with health information, trained approximately 600 health care professionals in providing mental health support and 540 community workers in COVID-19 prevention measures, and offered 2,800 mental health consultations.

CONTEXT

- On December 31, 2019, the WHO Country Office in mainland People's Republic of China (PRC) reported that it became aware of several cases of pneumonia with an unknown cause in Wuhan city, Hubei Province, PRC. In January 2020, Chinese authorities identified a new type of coronavirus, which is responsible for the current COVID-19 pandemic. Shortly after, on January 13 and 15, respectively, the Ministry of Public Health in Thailand and the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare in Japan reported the first cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 outside of PRC.
- Following the worldwide spread of the disease, WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020, and a global pandemic on March 11, 2020.
- In March 2021, USAID re-activated the COVID-19 Task Force to protect the safety and security of USAID's global workforce, ensure that USAID can continue its life-saving mission across the world, and support partner countries in their response to COVID-19.

USAID FUNDING OBLIGATED FOR THE LAC COVID-19 RESPONSE¹

AGENCY	PARTNERS	AMOUNT
Bahamas		
USAID/GH	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	\$750,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN THE BAHAMAS		\$750,000
Belize		
USAID/GH	UNICEF	\$300,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN BELIZE		\$300,000
Bolivia		
USAID/GH	Chemonics, ProSalud, UNICEF	\$6,637,785
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN BOLIVIA		\$6,637,785
Brazil		
USAID/BHA	Escritorio Nacional, International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, World Vision	\$6,000,000

USAID/GH	Chemonics, Palladium	\$23,134,622
USAID/LAC	Palladium	\$950,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN BRAZIL		\$30,084,622
Colombia		
USAID/BHA	Abt Associates, IFRC, WFP, Worldwide Relief	\$15,500,000
USAID/GH	Abt Associates, Chemonics	\$3,847,500
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN COLOMBIA		\$19,347,500
Costa Rica		
USAID/GH	UNICEF	\$800,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN COSTA RICA		\$800,000
Dominican Republic		
USAID/GH	Abt Associates, Chemonics, FHI 360, PACT	\$3,498,769
USAID/LAC	Counterpart International, Fundación REDDOM, UNICEF	\$2,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		\$5,498,769
Ecuador		
USAID/BHA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), IFRC, UNICEF, WFP, World Vision	\$10,999,089
USAID/GH	Chemonics, Fundación Esquel, IFRC, JHPIEGO	\$8,550,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN ECUADOR		\$19,549,089
El Salvador		
USAID/BHA	Americares, Save the Children Federation (SCF), World Vision	\$2,000,000
USAID/GH	Chemonics, FHI 360, Palladium	\$10,349,334
USAID/LAC	Development Alternatives, Inc., Palladium	\$2,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN EL SALVADOR		\$14,349,334
Guatemala		
USAID/BHA	Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Medical Teams International, Project Concern International, SCF	\$6,000,000
USAID/GH	Chemonics, Johns Hopkins University (JHU), Palladium	\$7,502,039
USAID/LAC	CRS, Palladium, WFP	\$15,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN GUATEMALA		\$28,502,039
Haiti		
USAID/BHA	CRS; Doctors of the World; International Committee of the Red Cross; Management Sciences for Health, Inc; IOM; SCF; UNICEF	\$10,000,000
USAID/GH	Caris Foundation International, Chemonics, FHI 360, International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis, PAHO, Public Health Institute, Spinal Bifida and Hydrocephalous Care Foundation, UNICEF	\$6,485,478
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN HAITI		\$16,485,478
Honduras		
USAID/BHA	GOAL, Global Communities, SCF	\$3,000,000
USAID/GH	Chemonics, FHI 360, IOM, PAHO, Palladium	\$12,400,333
USAID/LAC	WFP	\$11,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN HONDURAS		\$26,400,333
Jamaica		

USAID/GH	Jamaica AIDS Support for Life, PAHO	\$1,000,000
USAID/LAC	FHI 360	\$1,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN JAMAICA		\$2,000,000
Nicaragua		
USAID/GH	University Research Co.	\$750,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN NICARAGUA		\$750,000
Panama		
USAID/GH	Chemonics, FHI 360	\$2,524,478
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN PANAMA		\$2,524,478
Paraguay		
USAID/GH	Chemonics, FHI 360, PAHO, UNICEF	\$6,313,738
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN PARAGUAY		\$6,313,738
Peru		
USAID/BHA	ADRA, Americares, RET, Socios en Salud, SCF, WFP	\$7,000,000
USAID/GH	Chemonics, Prisma, Public Health Institute, Socios en Salud	\$14,302,564
USAID/LAC	CEDRO	\$3,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN PERU		\$24,302,564
Saint Kitts and Nevis		
USAID/GH	Chemonics	\$506,956
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS		\$506,956
Uruguay		
USAID/GH	IFRC	\$500,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN URUGUAY		\$500,000
Venezuela		
USAID/BHA	Implementing Partners	\$9,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN VENEZUELA		\$9,000,000
Regional		
USAID/GH	IFRC, JHU, PAHO, UNICEF	\$3,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR REGIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE		\$3,000,000
TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE LAC COVID-19 RESPONSE²		\$217,602,685

¹ Funding figures reflect funding obligated as of June 1, 2021. The total does not include the more than \$2.2 billion in USAID assistance for global COVID-19 response operations, including USG assistance to GAVI/COVAX. To date, USAID has obligated more than \$3.4 billion for COVID-19 response operations worldwide.

² Please note that this total does not include funding for USAID operating expenses (OE). Of the \$95 million appropriated for COVID-19-related OE as of June 10, approximately \$65 million had been obligated as of the same date. In addition, USAID transferred \$7 million in ESF-COVID funding to the USAID OE Account.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to organizations that are conducting relief operations. USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed; can be transferred quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org.

- USAID has established an inbox (covid-pse@usaid.gov) to coordinate private sector engagement around the COVID-19 response. In addition, the UN supports an initiative for businesses seeking to donate money, goods or services. Please visit connectingbusiness.org for more information.
- Finally, USAID reminds the public that it may accept unsolicited applications and proposals. The Agency has set up a COVID-19 Concepts portal at: <https://www.usaid.gov/coronavirus/funding-requests-unsolicited-proposals>.